

FY2023 Modification to Honors College Differential Tuition

BACKGROUND

The Honors College has put forward a proposal to allow Ecampus students to pursue the Honors Baccalaureate degree and to extend Honors College differential to those students. As part of the proposal, the Honors College proposes changing the current charge from \$500 per quarter regardless of enrollment to \$250 per quarter for part-time study (1-11 credits) and \$500 per quarter for full-time study (12 credits and over). This change requires the Board of Trustees to approve a modification of its differential tuition rates. The differential charge would apply to all undergraduate students regardless of location, including Ecampus.

DIFFERENTIAL TUITION PROPOSAL

Honors college students at the Corvallis and OSU-Cascades campuses currently pay \$500 per term (fall, winter, and spring terms only) in differential tuition, regardless of student type (full-time or part-time, resident or non-resident). The Honors College is currently home to approximately 1,600 OSU students engaged in degree programs offered on the Corvallis and OSU-Cascades campuses. With the planned expansion to serve Ecampus students who are enrolled in undergraduate degree-granting programs, staff are requesting that the Honors College differential tuition charge be adjusted to \$250 per term for part-time students and remain at \$500 per term for full-time students at all campuses. Differential tuition would be charged only in fall, winter, and spring terms, regardless of a student's registration status in summer term, and the differential tuition rate be the same regardless of student residency.

THE HONORS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

The Honors College is a degree-granting college. The Honors degree is conferred simultaneous with the degree earned from an undergraduate degree program. Approximately 20% of a student's coursework is taken within the Honors College. The honors curriculum includes baccalaureate core courses, electives from a wide range of majors, colloquia on special topics, and credits associated with the honors thesis. Honors courses are taught by tenured/tenure track faculty, senior instructors, or faculty with qualifications equivalent to these ranks. The Honors College uses differential tuition to compensate the hosting unit for a faculty member to be released from other teaching assignments to teach honors courses. Honors course enrollments are capped in size (most often, 20-25 students for lower division and 12-15 students for upper division), allowing faculty to employ collaborative and active learning techniques and offer meaningful experiential opportunities.

Approximately 435 honors sections of courses were offered in AY22. With additional enrollment growth anticipated (in Corvallis, OSU-Cascades, **and** Ecampus), staff estimate that the number of Honors course sections will grow to 500 and will be sufficient to support and sustain an Honors College student enrollment of about 1,800. The number of courses offered is critical to ensuring all Honors College students have access to and can meet the honors coursework requirements associated with earning the Honors Baccalaureate degree.

The Honors College is designed to create a transformative undergraduate experience. The honors experience integrates community-building programs, professional development activities and experiences, and a faculty-mentored research experience, in addition to the innovative and compelling honors curriculum. A team of 15 faculty and staff coordinates and delivers the

experiences, with the support of hundreds of faculty from across the university, who serve as teachers and mentors.

FUNDING THE HONORS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Honors College differential tuition funds these experiences, with approximately 5% of differential tuition supporting a wide range of community-building and research experiences over the last five years. Approximately 84% of differential tuition is used to directly support the delivery of honors coursework.

While differential tuition is a financial reality for the Honors College at OSU, staff are committed to ensuring that financial need does not prevent students from earning an Honors Baccalaureate degree. Roughly 35% of Honors College students have significant levels of financial need. Differential tuition is included in the calculation of the financial aid package for every Honors College student, and the aid packet is adjusted to include the additional costs associated with earning an Honors Baccalaureate degree. Since 2019, the Honors College has set aside about 4% of the College's portion of differential tuition to award scholarships to help students who might otherwise leave the Honors College, because they are unable to pay the differential tuition. The Honors College has also prioritized using philanthropic gifts to support additional differential tuition scholarships for honors students. These scholarships are critical to allowing students to stay enrolled in the Honors College despite unexpected financial challenges or circumstances not fully captured in the calculation of financial aid packages. These scholarships are available to all honors students, regardless of campus.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Finance and Administration Committee recommend to the Board that it approve the modification to Honors College differential tuition from \$500 per quarter at any credit hour load to \$250 per quarter for students admitted to the Honors College taking 1 to 11 credit hours and \$500 per quarter for students admitted to the Honors College taking 12 or more credit hours (as illustrated in Table 1). The differential charge would apply to Corvallis, OSU-Cascades, and Ecampus and would extend opportunities for the Ecampus experience to all undergraduate students regardless of location.

Table 1. An illustration of the Honors College differential charge for students entering OSU in 2022-23 in programs charging base tuition rates at Corvallis, OSU-Cascades, and Ecampus.

Oregon State University-Corvallis Campus				Academic Year 2022-2023				
				Matriculated in Academic Year 2022-23				
Corvallis		Cascades		Ecampus				
Undergraduate Tuition Rates								
	Undergraduate Base Tuition	Honors College		Undergraduate Base Tuition	Honors College		Undergraduate Base Tuition	Honors College
Credits	Resident	Resident		Resident	Resident		Resident	Resident
1	338	588		338	588		346	596
2	576	826		576	826		692	942
3	814	1,064		814	1,064		1,038	1,288
4	1,052	1,302		1,052	1,302		1,384	1,634
5	1,290	1,540		1,290	1,540		1,730	1,980
6	1,528	1,778		1,528	1,778		2,076	2,326
7	1,766	2,016		1,766	2,016		2,422	2,672
8	2,004	2,254		2,004	2,254		2,768	3,018
9	2,242	2,492		2,242	2,492		3,114	3,364
10	2,480	2,730		2,480	2,730		3,460	3,710
11	2,718	2,968		2,718	2,968		3,806	4,056
12	2,956	3,456		2,956	3,456		4,152	4,402
13	3,194	3,694		3,194	3,694		4,498	4,748
14	3,432	3,932		3,432	3,932		4,844	5,094
15	3,670	4,170		3,670	4,170		5,190	5,440
16	3,908	4,408		3,908	4,408		5,536	5,786
17	4,146	4,646		4,146	4,646		5,882	6,132
18	4,384	4,884		4,384	4,884		6,228	6,478
Each Add'l Credit Hour	238	238		238	238		346	346
Credits	Non-Resident	Non-Resident		Non-Resident	Non-Resident		Non-Resident	Non-Resident
1	1,044	1,294		1,044	1,294		346	596
2	1,753	2,003		1,753	2,003		692	942
3	2,462	2,712		2,462	2,712		1,038	1,288
4	3,171	3,421		3,171	3,421		1,384	1,634
5	3,880	4,130		3,880	4,130		1,730	1,980
6	4,589	4,839		4,589	4,839		2,076	2,326
7	5,298	5,548		5,298	5,548		2,422	2,672
8	6,007	6,257		6,007	6,257		2,768	3,018
9	6,716	6,966		6,716	6,966		3,114	3,364
10	7,425	7,675		7,425	7,675		3,460	3,710
11	8,134	8,384		8,134	8,384		3,806	4,056
12	8,843	9,343		8,843	9,343		4,152	4,402
13	9,552	10,052		9,552	10,052		4,498	4,748
14	10,261	10,761		10,261	10,761		4,844	5,094
15	10,970	11,470		10,970	11,470		5,190	5,440
16	11,679	12,179		11,679	12,179		5,536	5,786
17	12,388	12,888		12,388	12,888		5,882	6,132
18	13,097	13,597		13,097	13,597		6,228	6,478
Each Add'l Credit Hour	709	709		709	709		346	346